

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 PC-01 OMB-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 1685

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, UY

SUBJ: PRESIDENTIAL AND MILITARY MEETINGS

REF: MVD 1674

1. SUMMARY: THE PRESIDENT, SOME MINISTERS AND SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS HAVE BEEN MEETING ALMOST CONTINUOUSLY, BUT SEPARATELY, SINCE LATE MAY 19. HOWEVER, PRESIDENT BORDABERRY DID GO TO BOISSO LANZA AIR BASE TO MEET BRIEFLY WITH THE MILITARY WHO WERE HOLDING SESSIONS THERE. APPARENTLY UNDER DISCUSSION HAVE BEEN THE FIRING OF THE HEAD OF THE NATIONAL MEAT INSTITUTE (A COVER FOR DEEPER ISSUES)

AND MINISTERIAL CHANGES. WHILE THERE IS MUCH CONJECTURE THERE IS LITTLE SOLID INFORMATION AS PARTICIPANTS HAVE BEEN CLOSETED FOR SO LONG.

THE IMPRESSION WE HAVE IS THAT WHILE THE ISSUES OBVIOUSLY ARE SERIOUS, THE PRESIDENT'S POSITION DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE THREATENED AT THIS TIME ALTHOUGH WE OBVIOUSLY DO NOT YET HAVE THE FULL PICTURE.

2. SINCE REFTTEL DRAFTED LATE MAY 19, SENIOR MILITARY HAVE HELD SERIES OF MEETINGS WHICH RAN THROUGH MUCH OF THE NIGHT, WHICH WERE RENEWED AT BOISSO LANZA AIR BASE MORNING MAY 20 AND
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WHICH CONTINUE. PRESIDENT REPORTEDLY HAS MET WITH A NUMBER

OF HIS MINISTERS IN THE CITY AS WELL AS WITH MILITARY AT BOISSO LANZA DURING THE DAY.

3. INASMUCH AS MEETINGS HAVE BEEN ALMOST CONTINUOUS, LITTLE INFORMATION AVAILABLE. WE HAVE LEARNED THAT ONE MAJOR TOPIC OF DISCUSSIONS AMONG THE MILITARY HAS BEEN THE FIRING OF EDUARDO PEILE, ITERIM PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL MEAT INSTITUTE (INAC) ON MAY 18. APPARENTLY AS A RESULT OF GENERAL ALVAREZ' URGING AT THE MINAS CONGRESS (SEE REFTTEL PEILE ISSUED A DECREE ABOUT THE SUPPLYING OF CATTLE TO FRIGORIFICIOS DESPITE DIRECT ORDERS FROM MINAGR ALBUQUERQUE NOT TO DO SO. BORDABERRY BACKED HIS MINISTER AND PEILE WAS SUMMARILY DISMISSED. THE RAISING OF THIS ISSUE COULD OW TO ANY ONE OF A NUMBER OF THINGS, A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN ALVAREZ' SUPPORTERS AND HIS OPPONENTS, A MEANS OF GETTING AT ALBUQUERQUE (WHO IS DISLIKED BY MOST OF THE GENERALS), OR A MEANS OF CHALLENGING THE PRESIDENTIAL PROROGATIVE TO MAKE APPOINTMENTS. THE IMPRESSION WE ARE GETTING IS THAT BORDABERRY'S POSITION IS NOT THREATENED AT THIS TIME OVER THIS ISSUE.

4. ANOTHER TOPIC APPARENTLY BEING DISCUSSED IS THAT OF POSSIBLE MINISTERIAL CHANGES.

5. PRESS SOURCES TOLD USIS THAT THE PAPERS HAVE BEEN TOLD NOT TO PRINT ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON "EVEN IF THE PRESIDENT TELLS YOU TO PRINT IT." THERE WILL BE NO PAPERS PRINTED ON MAY 21 IN ANY CASE AS A LONG-PLANNED NATIONAL CENSUS WILL TAKE PLACE AND ALL BUSINESSES, SERVICES (EXCEPTING STIPULATED ESSENTIAL SERVICES) AND PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION WILL BE CLOSED DOWN.

6. LATEST BUT UNEVALUATED INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO US IS THAT MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND FINANCE VEGH VILLEGAS IS NOT THE CENTRAL ISSUE IN THE PRESENT SITUATION.
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